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From: Sharon Rock
Sent: Mon 12/14/2015 8:58:12 PM
Subject: Benson AZ Proposed Development - Villages at Vigneto

Dear Benson Mayor and Councilmembers -

I empathize with your desire to help change the economic climate of Benson. And it's clear why the proposed Villages at Vigneto 27,000 home development is alluring. Nevertheless, there are some serious concerns to be addressed:

El Dorado Benson LLC is striving to structure every aspect of the development in its own best interest, not in the City of Benson's best interest. This is the way of business. Everything you've been told has been made to sound as promising as possible. But in reality, it's about the company's own enrichment. As far as El Dorado is concerned, that enrichment will be at the expense of the people of Benson and the environment, if necessary.

If this development were to come to pass, it will indeed create jobs. But most likely, "Old Benson" would become the primary source of employees for the minimum wage service industry that the more affluent Villages would require.

There will be a social division as well, those who live in the Villages and those who don't. And with a few exceptions, the two will not mix.

The water use of such a project will be enormous, and the likelihood of damaging the fragile and critical San Pedro River is inevitable. Water is already the most precious resource on the planet. Conservation for humans and the environment alike is imperative. Population expansion in this arid land is unwise. Let's learn from the mistakes of other places rather than follow in their dangerous footsteps.

Financial desperation and/or greed can make us unwilling to see clearly. It's likely true that the Villages will create financial enhancements for Benson. But the long term social and environmental cost will far outweigh the gains. The people in "Old Benson" will likely become second class citizens. And eventually no one, rich or poor, will have enough water, (and neither will the plants or animals that depend on the water system in the San Pedro River valley).

Please vote against the Villages at Vigneto.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these thoughts -

Sharon Rock
Bisbee, AZ